PATENT PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Fre Application of : Customer Number: 20277

Bruce SMITH : Confirmation Number: 1516

Serial No.: 10/083,694 : Group Art Unit: 2851

Filed: February 27, 2002 : Examiner: Peter B. Kim

For: AN OPTICAL PROXIMITY CORRECTION METHOD UTILIZING GRAY BARS AS

SUB-RESOLUTION ASSIST FEATURES

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Mail Stop Response Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 1, 2004, having a three-month shortened statutory period for response set to expire on June 1, 2004, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending rejection for the following reasons.